

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:

an outer layer;

at least one optical fiber disposed inside said outer layer;

at least one gel-swellaible portion proximate to an inner surface of said outer layer; and

a water resistant gel positioned adjacent to said gel-swellaible portion and disposed between said outer layer and said optical fiber;

wherein said gel-swellaible portion has a density of less than 0.90 g/cc and said outer layer has a density of at least 0.90 g/cc.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion is a continuous layer surrounding said at least one optical fiber.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion has an uneven thickness.
4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion has a smooth surface.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion has at least one groove in a surface of said at least one gel-swellaible portion.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, further comprising a second gel-swellaible portion positioned between said gel-swellaible portion and said at least one optical fiber.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion has a corrugated surface which is adjacent to said gel.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein at least one gel-swellaible portion contacts said inner surface of said outer layer.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swellaible portion is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said gel-swellaible portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

12. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein said at least one gel-swappable portion is a polyolefin swappable material.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 1, wherein the material of said at least one gel-swappable portion is softer than the material of said outer layer.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber disposed inside said outer layer;
a gel-swappable portion contacting an outer surface of said optical fiber; and
a water resistant gel positioned adjacent to said gel-swappable portion;
wherein said gel swappable portion absorbs at least some of a said gel, and wherein said gel-swappable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swappable portion is a continuous layer surrounding said at least one optical fiber.

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellaible portion has an uneven thickness.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellaible portion has a smooth surface.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellaible portion has at least one groove in a surface of said gel-swellaible portion.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellaible portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, further comprising a second gel-swellaible portion positioned between said gel-swellaible portion and said outer jacket.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellaible portion has a corrugated surface which is adjacent to said gel.

23. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellaible layer has a density less than 0.90 g/cc.

24. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable layer is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said gel-swellable portion is a polyolefin swellable material.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein the material of said gel-swellable portion is softer than the material of said outer layer.

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A fiber optic cable, comprising:
an outer layer;
at least one optical fiber;
a water resistant gel disposed between said at least one optical fiber and said outer layer;
and
at least one gel-swellable portion proximate to one of an inner surface of said outer layer
and an outer surface of said optical fiber;

wherein said gel-swellaable portion is made from a material softer than said one of said inner surface and said outer surface to which said gel-swellaable portion is proximate to, and wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion has a density less than 0.90 g/cc.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion is a continuous layer.

31. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion has an uneven thickness.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion has a smooth surface.

33. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion has a groove in a surface of said at least one gel-swellaable portion.

34. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion is made from at least one longitudinally running strip.

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, further comprising a second gel-swellaable portion positioned between said at least one gel-swellaable portion and the other of said outer surface and said inner surface.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion has a density less than 0.90 g/cc.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion is one of a copolymer or terpolymer of polyethelene.

38. (CANCELLED)

39. (ORIGINAL) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said gel is a polyolefin oil based gel.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion is a polyolefin swellaable material.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellaable portion has a corrugated surface.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 15, wherein said optical fiber is part of an optical fiber ribbon.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion swells more than 10% at 85°C.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The fiber optic cable according to claim 29, wherein said at least one gel-swellable portion contacts said one of an inner surface of said outer layer and an outer surface of said optical fiber.